GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4860
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
EXPANSION OF BSNL AND MTNL SERVICES
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow both MTNL and BSNL to expand their operations nationwide with identical tariff plans based on economy of scale and prepare for ultimate merger to become single company for giving stiff competition to private telecom operators in the field and benefiting the telecom subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the rural expansion programme of the BSNL and its achievements in the area in meeting laid down targets, year-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Sir, BSNL and MTNL are expanding their network in their respective area of operation to provide quality service at affordable rates to their subscribers in order to remain competitive.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The details of the rural expansion programme and achievements of BSNL during the last four years are as under:

Year	Net addition of telephone exchanges (Nos.)	Net addition in capacity (in Lakh) in Lines $	Net addition in telephone connections (in Lakh Nos.)
2004-05	179	7.59	12.97
2005-06	50	12.30	49.08
2006-07	172	13.21	40.08
2007-8	253	13.98	29.26

$ Excluding GSM capacity
Excluding GSM connections